

Oral Questions

Mr. Turner (Ottawa—Carleton): Question.

Ms. Copps: Is that not just an admission that the facts in that secret study are so dangerous he does not even want them brought up on the floor of the House?

An Hon. Member: Cover up.

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): No, Mr. Speaker, I am most anxious that all the facts be discussed. That is why I am asking the Hon. Member to urge her colleagues to help us take it to committee so we can study all those facts and she and her constituents can be aware that this is good legislation for Canada—

Mr. Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): Table the stuff if it's that good.

Mr. Andre:—and it is going to generate thousands of jobs. It will provide a lot of research funds and is something the Hon. Member really ought to support.

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CHILD CARE

REQUEST FOR BUDGETARY MEASURE

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister who stated at the First Ministers' Conference that his commitment to a child care program is real and he is prepared to allocate substantial resources to this initiative. I commend him for that. In view of the urgent child care crisis right across Canada, will the Prime Minister allocate in the next Budget an emergency federal fund for child care services?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Indeed, Mr. Speaker, the commitment of the Government to child care is real and substantial. We have worked very closely with the provinces. The Minister of National Health and Welfare will be convening, I think in early January, a meeting of the appropriate Ministers to deal specifically with this issue.

It must be dealt with, as my hon. friend knows, jointly with the provinces, and the federal Government will be providing both leadership and resources to bring this about.

Ms. Mitchell: Mr. Speaker, we have a national case of child neglect in Canada. We need action now. It could take years to complete those negotiations.

REQUEST FOR \$320 MILLION

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Will the federal Government do what Katie Cooke advocated and allocate \$320 million in the upcoming Budget and begin to deal with this emergency during the period when negotiations are going on with the provinces? We need to upgrade and extend child care services in the meantime.

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend is quite right when reference is made to the fact that this very important matter of child care has been neglected by the federal Government for years. That is an accurate statement.

Ms. Mitchell: What are you going to do about it?

Mr. Mulroney: My hon. friend will not have to wait for years to have this matter resolved.

Ms. Mitchell: This Budget?

Mr. Mulroney: It is a priority for this Government and I hope for this House.

Ms. Mitchell: This Budget?

Mr. Mulroney: On behalf of Canadian women, appropriate action will be taken.

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PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

COST AND PRICE OF DRUGS

Mr. George Baker (Gander—Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, the Government tells us the price of drugs may go up for provincial Governments and that is why there is \$100 million allocated in the Bill—that is the cost of drugs—but the price of drugs will not go up for Canadian citizens. The Minister explains that difference by saying: "The truth lies in recognizing the difference between price and cost". That is about as clear as Milk of Magnesia. I would like to give the Minister an opportunity to explain in clear and simple English what he means when he says the cost of drugs may go up for the provincial Governments but the price of drugs will not go up for Canadians?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I sure wish the Hon. Member and his colleagues were willing to listen to that explanation.

Mr. Gray (Windsor West): Well?

Mr. Andre: If they were, they would help us take this Bill to committee so I could explain exactly that fact, and explain to Canadians, through the committee, how thousands of jobs are going to be created—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Andre:—and the net benefits which will accrue to Canada as a result of this legislation.

GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. George Baker (Gander—Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, the Americans have persuaded the Government to increase the